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Book Notes

by DICK LOCHTE

When William Faulkner Rushton published his "The Cajuns: From Acadia to Louisiana" in 1979, he was a few steps ahead of the trend that seems to be transforming many of our restaurants into far-flung Bayou branches. With better timing, Avon has just released "Let the Good Times Roll! The Complete Cajun Handbook"($7.95, paperback) by Andy Edmonds, which uses Rushton as one of its many sources and which covers Cajun history, dialect, music and, of course, cooking. Edmonds describes his survey by explaining: "There's an old Cajun saying that you can be Cajun in one of three ways—by birth, by the ring, or through the backdoor. Welcome to the backdoor!"

One aspect of the "Cajun Handbook" is exemplified in "You All Spoken Here" by North Carolinan Roy Wilder Jr. (Viking: $16.95; Nov. 15). Wilder "invite(s) folks from the outer precincts and other foreign parts to lend an ear to what four centuries of Southern talk have wrought." Included are such down-home homilies as: "If it ain't chickens, it's feathers," which is a long way of saying, "That's life," and "the dinner bell is always in tune," bringing us back to Cajun restaurants.

EVENTS—*Today:* 11 a.m.-1 p.m., author-illustrator James Marshall signs his books at Children's Book & Music Center in Santa Monica (2500 Santa Monica Blvd.). Call 829-0215 . . . 2 p.m., Malcolm Boyd reads from his "Take off the Masks" at A Different Light (4014 Santa Monica Blvd.). . . . 4:30 p.m., Kate Braverman reads her poetry at Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 7. . . . 7:30 p.m., Danny Sugerman reads from his upcoming "Wonderland Avenue" and Ivan E. Roth and Jill Fraser perform "Life Is A Noun" at McCabe's in Santa Monica (3101 W. Pico Blvd.); $6.50. Call 828-4497. . . . *Monday:* 1:30 p.m., John Ashbery reads his poetry on KCRW (89.9 FM) . . . 4-6 p.m., the Los Angeles Library Assn. hosts "An Afternoon With Jack Smith" at the UCLA Faculty Club (405 N. Hilgarde Ave.); $20. . . . 7:30 p.m., Scripps College Press presents an F.W. Goudy Lecture on the book arts by bookman and critic Charles Seluzicki at Scripps Humanities Auditorium in Claremont. . . . 7:30 p.m., the Independent Writers of Southern California present "Shoptalk '85" at La Cienega Park (8400 Gregory Way); $5. Call (818)286-3123. . . . *Tuesday:* 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Allen S. Maller discusses his "God, Sex and Kabbalah" at the Culver City Library. . . . 8 p.m., Richard Meltzer, Jack Skelley and others celebrate the debut of a new magazine at Al's Bar (305 S. Hewitt); 687-3558. . . . *Wednesday:* 4-4:45 p.m., the Fullerton Library celebrates Children's Book Week with storyteller Phil Auth at the Main Library (353 W. Commonwealth), to be repeated on Thursday at the Hunt Branch (201 S. Basque). Call (714) 738-6339. . . . 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sol H. Marshall conducts a cookbook-writing seminar at L.A. Harbor College. Call 518-3510. . . . 7:30 p.m., editor Keith Ball discusses "How to Submit to and Build Working Rapport With Publications" at a meeting of the Ventura Chapter of Independent Writers of Southern California at the Camarillo Art Club in Camarillo (3150 Ponderosa). Call (805)495-1675; $2. . . . *Thursday:* 1-4 p.m., Bruce Beck ("Produce: A Fruit and Vegetable Lover's Guide") gives a demonstration of unique ways to use produce for holiday meals, at Neiman-Marcus in Beverly Hills (9700 Wilshire Blvd.). . . . *Friday:* noon-6 p.m., the Peninsula Friends of the Library host a book sale at the Malaga Cove Library Gallery in Palos Verdes Estates (2400 Via Campesina); continuing Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. . . .1-3 p.m., Miss Grimble (Sylvia Balser Hirsch) signs her "Chocolate Crazy" at Neiman-Marcus in Beverly Hills; continuing Saturday, 1-3 p.m. . . . 8 p.m., Alicia Ostriker and Bill Mohr read their poetry at Beyond Baroque (681 Venice Blvd.). . . . 8 p.m., editor-publisher of L.A. Writer Maggie Kleinman guests at a meeting of Southwest Manuscripters, at Home Federal Savings Community Hall in Redondo Beach (1670 Pacific Coast Highway). . . . 10 p.m., Linda Albertano, Wanda Coleman and Walter Lacey read their poetry at Lhasa Club (1110 N. Hudson). . . . *Saturday:* 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the Friends of the Whittier Library host a book sale at the Book Processing Center in Whittier (Bailey and Comstock). . . . 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the Friends of the Tustin Library host their semiannual sale in the Library's Community Room (345 E. Main St.). . . . 11 a.m.-5 p.m., the Los Angeles Children's Museum offers a "ReadIn," featuring author Stephen Cosgrove, at the museum (310 N. Main St.). . . . 1 p.m., the Hermosa Beach Friends of the Library memorialize the late author Leonard Wibberley with the installation of his photo in the Library (550 Pier Ave.). . . . 2 p.m., Pastor Larry Uhrig of the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D.C., signs his "The Two of Us: Affirming, Celebrating and Symbolizing Gay and Lesbian Relationships" at A Different Light (4014 Santa Monica Blvd.). . . . 2-5 p.m., Frank Herbert ("Dune") visits Andromeda Bookshop in Santa Barbara (741 De La Guerra Plaza). . . . 8 p.m., John Thomas, Alison Townsend and Harry E. Northup read their poetry at Be Bop Records in Reseda (18433 Sherman Way).

FINALLY—Danny Biederman's "The Book of Kisses" (Dembner: $6.95), is filled with quotes, poems, photos and odd osculatory facts including the reminder that the first movie kiss was performed by actors John C. Rice and May Irwin in a 30-second nickelodeon production, "The Kiss." It was considered shocking by many, and Chicago publisher Herbert Stone called the film "absolutely disgusting . . . indecent. . . . Such things call for police interference." He'd probably have wanted to tar and feather Richard Dawson of "Family Feud."

Send material for Book Notes, including poetry readings, to Dick Lochte, P.O. Box 5413, Santa Monica, Calif. 90405 no later than 10 days before issue date.

Letters

A Swift Response. . .

Book Review (Oct. 28) contains a letter by Dennis Mahoney in which he purports to point out a mistake in my review of "Jonathan Swift" edited by Angus Ross and David Woolley (Book Review, Oct. 14). He claims that Swift was "a priest in the Church of *Ireland*," and not, as I wrote, "a dean of the Church of England." Here is a quotation from "The Literature of England: An Anthology and History" (a volume widely used in universities throughout the country) by George B. Woods of American University, Homer A. Watt of New York University and George K. Anderson of Brown University: "Swift was appointed Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (Church of England) in 1713." Dr. Lewis Soens Jr. of the department of English at Notre Dame, in his essay on the "Life of Swift," writes: "Swift had taken orders in the Church of Ireland (the Irish branch of the Church of England)." The reference, then, is not unlike that of designating "The Roman Catholic Church" in cities other than Rome.

Only in his last paragraph does Mahoney reveal the real purpose of his silly letter when he makes an equally clumsy attempt to insult me personally. I find consolation in the fact that no less a man than Jonathan Swift, whom I wrote about admiringly, was the constant object of tiny jabs from, in his phrase, "dunces . . . in confederacy"; that is, a "confederacy of dunces."

JOHN RECHY
Los Angeles

When Dennis Mahoney yowled about John Rechy's naming Jonathan Swift "dean of the Church of England" (Letters, Oct. 28), he may have left the reader with another mistaken understanding.

The Church of Ireland, in which Swift served as ordained priest and Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, is an Anglican church, in full communion with the Church of England and acknowledging the Archbishop of Canterbury as titular head, even as does the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

BARBARA KELLY
Santa Barbara

A Dull Cutting Edge?

After reading Valerie Hoffman's analysis of William Glasser's "Take Effective Control of Your Life" (Book Review, Oct. 21), "Not exactly at the cutting edge of psychological thought, this book reworks popularized behavioral concepts," I wondered whether she really understood either Glasser's concepts or "popularized behavioral concepts." Glasser's "control theory" is the one current understanding of behavior that can be said to be "at the cutting edge of psychological thought."

"Control theory" teaches that we (and all living organisms) are *internally* motivated to fulfill our own needs and, therefore, merely react to, and are controlled by, the world around us.

When compared to behaviorist thought that has dominated most modern psychology (such as the "script analysis" mold into which Hoffman attempts to fit Glasser's thought), Glasser's explanations of behavior indeed are "revolutionary" and deserve far greater attention and discussion than given in a one paragraph "pop" review that reveals less knowledge about its subject than can be found on the book's jacket.

T. MICHAEL ELLIOTT
Camarillo

Happy, Even Grateful

Our new publicity director, Cynthia Kirk, flagged for me "Endpapers" (Oct. 28).

At the risk of being read out of the publisher's fraternity—I was never a member of a fraternity, as a matter of fact, so I don't really give a damn—may I say that I completely agree with him about the opposition to having a supposedly newsworthy book submitted on the condition that it not be revealed to the newsgathering department of your paper. I also agree that reasonable comment in the news columns about a forthcoming book not only does not diminish its salability but heightens it. In any case I should be happy and maybe even grateful.

DONALD I. FINE
New York, N.Y.

Material on Archivist

For a selective edition of the papers and correspondence of John Franklin Jameson (1859—1937), American historian, managing editor of the American Historical Review and a leading proponent of the National Archives, we would appreciate information concerning Jameson or materials relating to his life, especially letters, essays and addresses, reminiscences, photographs, drawings and memorabilia.

MOREY D. ROTHBERG
JACQUELINE A. GOGGIN
J. Franklin Jameson Papers
Manuscript Division
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20540

Best Sellers

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Placement on national list is noted in parentheses.

FICTION

1 **The Talisman** by Stephen King and Peter Straub (Viking) (1)
2 **The Fourth Protocol** by Frederick Forsyth (Viking) (2)
3 **Love and War** by John Jakes (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) (3)
4 **God Knows** by Joseph Heller (Knopf) (5)
5 **Strong Medicine** by Arthur Hailey (Doubleday) (4)
6 **Crescent City** by Belva Plain (Delacorte) (11)
7 **Stillwatch** by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster) (6)
8 **Life Its Ownself: The Semi-Tough Adventures of Billy Clyde Puckett** by Dan Jenkins (Simon & Schuster) (10)
9 **The Sicilian** by Mario Puzo (Linden)
10 . . . **And Ladies of the Club** by Helen Hooven Santmyer (Putnam's) (7)
11 **First Among Equals** by Jeffrey Archer (Linden) (12)
12 **Tough Guys Don't Dance** by Norman Mailer (Random House)
13 **The Miracle** by Irving Wallace (Dutton)
14 **The Life and Hard Times of Heidi Abromowitz** by Joan Rivers (Delacorte)
15 **Lincoln** by Gore Vidal (Random House) (8)

GENERAL

1 **Iacocca** by Lee Iacocca with William Novak (Bantam) (1)
2 **Loving Each Other** by Leo Buscaglia (Slack/Holt, Rinehart & Winston) (2)
3 **What They Don't Teach You at Harvard Business School** by Mark H. McCormack (Bantam) (3)
4 **"The Good War": An Oral History of World War Two** by Studs Terkel (Pantheon) (8)
5 **The Bridge Across Forever** by Richard Bach (Morrow) (5)
6 **Heritage: Civilization and the Jews** by Abba Eban (Summit) (7)
7 **Cats, Dogs and Other Strangers at My Door** by Jack Smith (Watts)
8 **The One Minute Salesperson** by Spencer Johnson and Larry Wilson (Morrow) (4)
9 **Pieces of My Mind** by Andrew A. Rooney (Atheneum) (6)
10 **Pierre Deux's French Country** by Pierre Moulin, Pierre LeVec and Linda Dannenberg (Potter)
11 **Moses the Kitten** by James Herriot (St. Martin's) (10)
12 **Dr. Burns' Prescription for Happiness** by George Burns (Putnam's)
13 **The Nightmare Years** by William L. Shirer (Little, Brown)
14 **The Weaker Vessel** by Antonia Fraser (Knopf) (14)
15 (Tie) **Eat to Win: the Sports Nutrition Bible** by Robert Haas (Rawson) (9) and **The Kennedys: An American Drama** by Peter Collier and David Horowitz (Summit) (15)

AND THE CRITICS COMMEND

Bush Soldiers, John Hooker (Viking). Novel, set in Australia during World War II, about five soldiers who are brought together while fleeing from an enemy.

Half Moon Street, Paul Theroux (Houghton Mifflin). Novella about an academic who moonlights as a call girl.

Trauma Center, Randall S. Sword (Scribner's). A look at the emergency room of a major city hospital.

Writing Lives, Leon Edel (Norton). Examination of a biographer at work.

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